

**THE BEE-KEEPER'S MANUAL;
OR, PRACTICAL HINTS ON
THE MANAGEMENT OF THE
HONEY-BEE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649072194

The Bee-Keeper's Manual; Or, Practical Hints on the Management of the Honey-Bee by Henry Taylor

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Edited by Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd.
Cover @ 2017

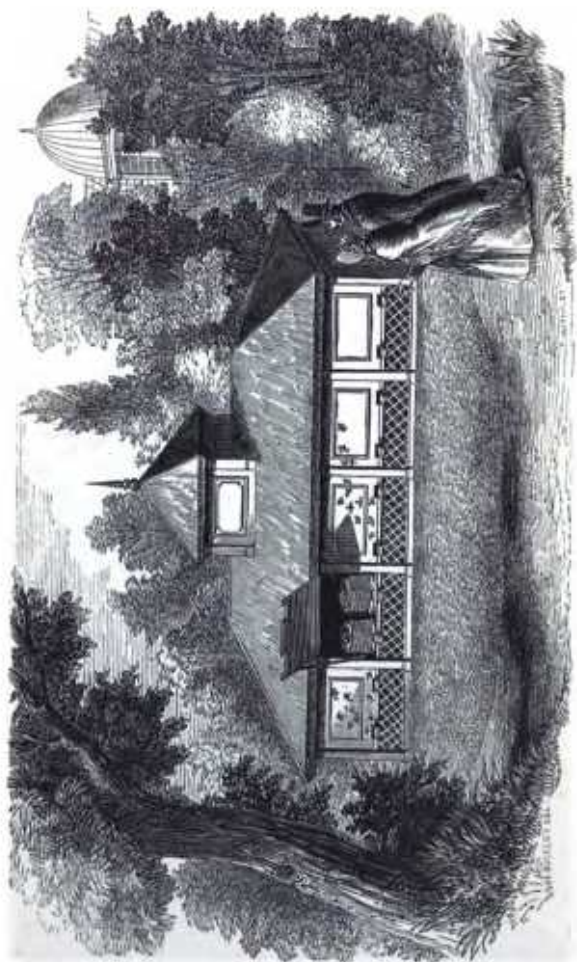
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HENRY TAYLOR

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HONEY-BEE**

THE
BEE-KEEPER'S MANUAL.



THE
BEE-KEEPER'S MANUAL,
OR
PRACTICAL HINTS
ON THE
MANAGEMENT AND COMPLETE PRESERVATION
OF
THE HONEY-BEE;

WITH
A DESCRIPTION OF THE MOST APPROVED HIVES,
AND MODES OF CONSTRUCTING THEM,
AND OTHER APPURTENANCES OF THE APIARY.

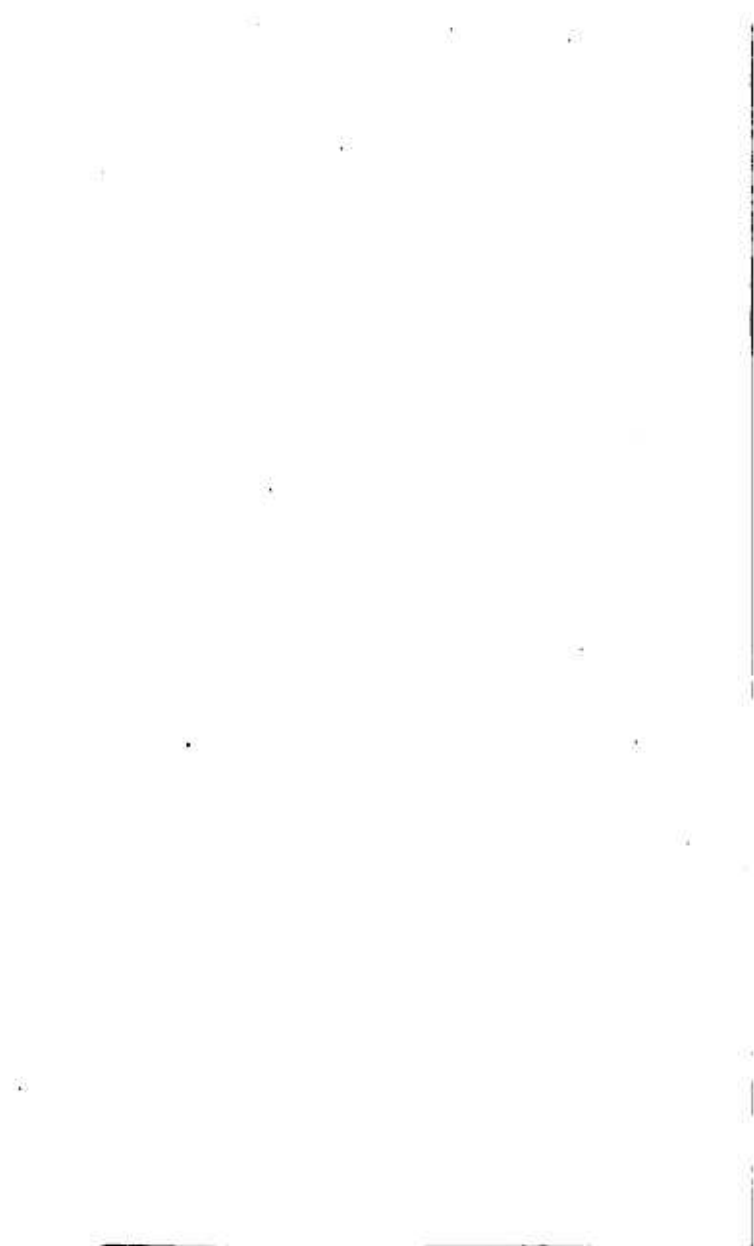
BY
HENRY TAYLOR.

FIFTH EDITION.
ILLUSTRATED BY A HUNDRED ENGRAVINGS.

LONDON:
GROOMBRIDGE AND SONS, PATERNOSTER ROW.
1855.

189. c. 146.





PREFACE

TO

THE FOURTH EDITION.

TWELVE years have elapsed since the original publication of the *BEE-KEEPER'S MANUAL*. For the fourth time the author is called upon to revise his little book, and he still thinks that the leading object in offering it to public notice will best be explained in the words with which it was first introduced. "The existence of the following pages had its origin, some time ago, in the request of a friend, that the author would give him a brief practical compendium of the management of Bees, on the humane or depriving system. Similar applications came from other quarters. The subject is one which has of late acquired increased interest; but the hints following would perhaps never have been prepared for the press, had not the hours of a protracted confinement by illness required some diversity of occupation and amusement. On reviewing his experience as an amateur

bee-keeper, the author was led to believe that the result of it, added to a concise view of such particulars as are usually spread over a large surface in works of this nature, and arranged according to the progressive order of the seasons, might be useful to others, seeking like himself occasional relaxation from weightier matters in watching over and protecting these interesting and valuable insects. Step by step this or that defect of construction in his Hives had been remedied, and such conveniences added as necessity or the spirit of improvement from time to time had suggested. These are briefly described in the following little work. If it have the good fortune, though in a small degree, to smooth the path (usually a rough and uncertain one) of the apiarian novice,—of removing ignorance and prejudice, or of obviating any portion of the difficulties with which a more general cultivation of bees has to contend,—why may not the contribution of this mite be considered a humble addition to the store of USEFUL KNOWLEDGE?"

In its present renewed form, the author has been induced partially to extend his first design (originally much restricted in its scope), by

entering somewhat more at large into the subject of Bee management, and the general details of practice. Although not professing to offer his remarks to any particular class of readers, he is, nevertheless, inclined to think they will frequently be found, in an especial degree, applicable to the position of the amateur Apiarian. For the peculiar use of cottage bee-keepers, tracts and scraps innumerable have been issued,—probably with very uncertain effect. In short, there is little room for doubt that these can be more effectually benefited by example and verbal advice, than by any kind of printed instructions. Be this as it may, putting out of the question the long train of contingences incident to locality, season, &c., much must often be left to individual judgment and careful observation; and no writer can be expected to meet every supposable case of difficulty in dealing with insects confessedly often so intractable as bees. The author, therefore, must be considered as merely laying down a scheme of general recommendations; aiming much less at novelty than at plain practical utility; not hesitating occasionally to borrow the language of other unexceptionable authorities where it clearly expressed his con-